

ORIGINAL



CITY COUNCIL MEETING Meeting Minutes of November 19, 2020

Mayor Schabell called the Alexandria City Council Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the invocation and the pledge to the flag. The following Council Members answering roll call:

Stacey Graus	Present	Susan Vanlandingham	Present
Bob Simon	Present	Sue Neltner	Present
Tom Baldrige	Present	Kyle Sparks	Absent

Also: Jan Johannemann, City Clerk Mike Duncan, City Attorney
Lucas Cooper, Police Chief JoAnn Hackworth, City Treasurer
Sam Trapp, Public Works Supt.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 5, 2020

MOTION: Stacey Graus made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2020 meeting, seconded by Tom Baldrige. All in favor, the motion passed 5-0-0.

VISITORS & GUESTS

Michael McGrath-Light Up Alexandria: Mr. McGrath reported they had to make some revisions after Governor Beshear's announcement on Wednesday. The goal is to still have the parade on Wednesday, December 2 with social distancing measures. It will start at the VFW, travel up Spillman and end at the City Building for tree lighting. Cocoa with Santa has been canceled. Thursday-Saturday there will be shopping at the 34 participating local businesses. The Light Up Alexandria Board can be found in the Town Money Saver and participants can get the board stamped by each business; no signatures are required this year. The event will end at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday and boards should be brought to the Honey Hole for Facebook Live door prize drawings.

Stephanie Allgeyer & Tim Furbush, VonLehman & Associates: Ms. Allgeyer met with the Finance Committee earlier and went over the audit in detail. She presented a brief overview of the audit to council, first addressing the Financial Statement for the year ending June 30, 2020. The Independent Auditor's Report reflects that the financial statements present fairly, and in all material respects the respective financial position of the City of Alexandria. This is an unmodified, clean report. Ms. Allgeyer then reviewed several pages of the financial statement in detail. The auditors did identify one significant deficiency with segregation of duties, but no material weaknesses.

Mr. Graus said the city is in really good shape financially and the City's finances are solid. The City continues to grow and has done a great job cutting expenses where needed. It was asked how the city would have fared if the CARES Act money was not included. Even without that money the City would have ended the year very well financially.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS – None

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

City Clerk: Ms. Johannemann reported it is business as usual and they are staying busy.

Police Department: With the new requirements issued by the Governor, Chief Cooper reminded folks that all complaints regarding non-complaint businesses should be made to the Health Department. The social workers are still accepting items for the Blessing Bags and that will go through November 30. They will also have a Christmas Tree to help out a family in need and that will start the week after Thanksgiving. The Community Center is still shut down, but folks can drop

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items off in a bin that is placed outside the front doors. The Police Department office still remains closed to the public but there is someone there every day answering the telephone.

Public Works: They had salt trucks rolling in and they are getting ready for the winter season.

Zoning Administrator/Code Enforcement: Report attached.

Community Center: Report attached.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Beautification – Sue Neltner: Ms. Neltner encouraged folks to start decorating their homes for Christmas. Nominations are due by December 17 by 3:00 p.m. and votes are due by December 28.

Finance – Stacey Graus: VonLehman presented a more detailed report to the Finance Committee and it seems like the City is doing well financially. He hopes that will continue.

Personnel – Tom Baldrige: They met tonight to discuss the Code Enforcement Officer position. The committee was able to ask Mr. Davenport some questions. Mr. Baldrige felt good about the meeting and feels like Mr. Davenport understands their concerns. They now have an open line of communication so they can ask him questions directly. He also thanked Mr. Simon & Mr. Sparks for their input on the committee.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Planning & Zoning: Planning & Zoning had a virtual meeting this past Tuesday.

NEW BUSINESS

Profit & Loss: Mayor Schabell asked for questions concerning the report. There were none.

Alcohol License: The Governor issued a 12-month fee waiver for bars and restaurants who have a liquor license. This waiver does not apply to liquor stores, only places serving alcohol by the drink. Cities have the option to also offer this waiver for 12 months. The City has 21 alcohol licenses and 11 of those are for liquor stores; 10 are bars and restaurants. The City sent out the renewal letters before the ruling came about and have already had 4 restaurants pay their renewal fees. Ms. Johannemann explained the ruling from the Governor's office in regards to the waiver.

Mayor Schabell asked council to weigh in on whether or not the City should waive the fees in light of the most recent restrictions. Mr. Graus believes it is a good idea and the city is able to financially handle this. Helping keep these places in business will be a benefit in the long run. All of council was on board with refunding the restaurants and bars who have already paid and waiving fees for those who have not yet paid, starting fresh next year. Mayor Schabell signed the Executive Order waiving the fees for 2021.

Veteran Hall of Fame Signs: Mayor Schabell had received an email from a resident who noticed the Veteran Hall of Fame signs were removed. He had Mr. Trapp remove the signs located at the north and south sign because he was unable to read them. He wanted to move them to a more visible location. As Mayor, he sometimes makes decisions where he does not consult council. Other times, he gets council's opinion, even though he doesn't have to. Council then spent a few minutes discussing possible locations in the city for each of the signs, and suggested the smaller sign could be put at the park near the Veteran Flag, and the larger sign by the Old Town District sign at the corner of Main Street and US 27.

Light Up Alexandria Parade: Ms. Neltner expressed her desire to see the parade happen and made suggestions on how to have the parade and keep everyone safe. The parade will take place outside with plenty of space for folks to social distance, but she also realizes that many things have

been canceled due to the increase in COVID numbers. Some council members did not believe the parade was the best idea and did not want to see folks put time and money into floats for the parade for it to be cancelled closer to the event. Mayor Schabell is torn on the decision. On one hand, the city has been a major supporter of small businesses and believes this would be a boost for them; on the other hand, he does not want to be part of a super spreader event. He also expressed concern about the liability to the city if, in fact, people were to become infected at the event. To clarify, Council is only discussing canceling the parade and not the Light Up Alexandria event or the tree lighting. It was suggested to have the Tree Lighting live on Facebook. After some discussion, council decided to cancel the parade. Ms. Vanlandingham did make a suggestion to have more VIPs and/or officers at future Tree Lighting events for safety reasons.

OLD BUSINESS

COVID 19 Update: Community Center is closed for the month of November and December. The office remains open with masks and social distance and there have been some IT changes made to enable employees to work from home.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Tom Baldrige: He really liked the Planning & Zoning survey and would like to meet the planner. Mayor Schabell mentioned the survey is not up and running yet. The commission will be discussing and finalizing it at their next meeting.

Mayor Schabell: He had a conference call with the Governor this week before he came out with his newest recommendations. It would have been more beneficial to have the call after the Governor made the recommendations rather than before in order to field questions from the Mayors.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- Planning & Zoning – Dec. 1, 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Schabell told council to be on the lookout for an email the Thursday before their next meeting requesting whether the meeting happen virtual or a hybrid model. Council decided to cancel the December 17 meeting.


Ms. Johannemann mentioned the waste bids are due by Noon on November 20 and it will be an agenda item to discuss at their first meeting in December.

COMMUNICATIONS

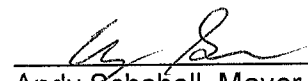
- Blessing Bag Supply Donation thru November
- Nov. 26-27—Thanksgiving Holidays (Office Closed)

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Sue Neltner made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Susan Vanlandingham. All in favor, the motion passed 6-0-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.


Jan Johannemann, City Clerk

Date: 12/3/2020


Andy Schabell, Mayor

Date: 12/03/2020